Electronic Resources Committee
Regular Meeting

| February 20, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. | Tulare Public Library |

DRAFT MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

B. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present: Nathan Vosburg (Coalinga-Huron), Mike Drake (Fresno), Ashley Nuhfer (Kings), Alma Madrigal-Ward (Madera), Smruti Deshpande (Merced), Alisha Rodriguez (Tulare County), Heidi Clark (Tulare Public)

Members Absent: Fahra Daredia (Kern), Matt Johnson (Mariposa)

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended to remove agenda item E, numbers 1 and 2, as those minutes were previously approved at the January 16, 2025 meeting. The agenda was adopted as amended.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. ~~Regular Meeting: October 17, 2024~~ Item removed due to prior approval on January 16, 2025
2. ~~Special Meeting: November 14, 2024~~ Item removed due to prior approval on January 16, 2025
3. Special Meeting: January 13, 2025
4. Special Meeting: January 23, 2025

F. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

1. DISCUSSION: Systemwide Tutoring Services

   State legislature made a change to the bill regarding student success cards. Previously, the law required public libraries to provide students access to tutoring services. That was the reason for our RFP. Last fall, the language on tutoring services was changed to say that libraries should provide access to tutoring if it was available.

   Because of the change, Admin Council postponed awarding a contract to Tutor.com, as ERC recommended following the RFP process and evaluation. Member libraries are contacting local school districts to determine what tutoring resources and services are available to students through their schools. Admin Council will consider those findings

at the April 2025 meeting and determine how to proceed with tutoring services through the library.

Members discussed whether Admin Council would eventually award a contract to the selected vendor from the RFP (Tutor.com) or would make a different award. Boyer understood that Admin Council was looking at a variety of options, including an award to Tutor.com for systemwide access, no award due to tutoring availability at local schools, or subscriptions on an individual jurisdiction by jurisdiction basis.

Members discussed the challenges and inconveniences of changing resources that patrons are accustomed to using. Members commented on Brainfuse, which was available through the State Library, discontinued, renewed and offered by SJVLS, and now potentially discontinued again or replaced by Tutor.com. Boyer acknowledged that the System tries not to change resources often or abruptly and that the directors also support consistency with the resources we offer. Madrigal-Ward noted that while patrons may not like change, they will adjust and use new resources if those are useful.

2. DISCUSSION: Udemy

    Boyer reported on the usage of the newest systemwide resource, Udemy, during the first month it was available. There was some turnover in Gale reps over the last two months. Boyer has a meeting schedule with the new rep to discuss staff/library training. Members requested that the training be recorded so that it can be shared with staff who cannot attend live.

    Access to Udemy is currently available only through one systemwide account. Tracking individual jurisdiction usage will not be possible. Boyer is working with Gale to change access so that each jurisdiction can see their usage statistics, consistent with reporting from the other Gale resources.

    Members requested access to marketing materials for Udemy. Boyer will share links to marketing resources and will follow up with the committee on jurisdiction-specific access and training issues.

3. DISCUSSION: Digital Magazines and Newspapers

    The System office is still hoping to add digital magazines, and possibly newspapers, as a systemwide resource for FY25-26. Boyer had conversations with OverDrive and CloudLibrary in 2024. Committee members had access to a trial of CloudLibrary's NewsStand in early 2024.

    OverDrive
    Offering magazines through OverDrive is complicated due to each jurisidiction's individual OverDrive collection. Providing magazines at the system level is cost effective but would require patrons to access OverDrive ebooks and audiobooks from one OverDrive collection and magazines from a separate collection. To present everything in a single collection, libraries could purchase magazines through their existing OverDrive accounts and bill SJVLS. That option provides limited, if any, volume discount or cost savings. If SJVLS migrated the collection of ebooks and eaudio from CloudLibrary to OverDrive, the System could then purchase magazines for all members as part of the SJVLS OverDrive collection. This would still probably be a separate collection from the individual OverDrive ebook/eaudio collections, because the

challenges of offering an integrated OverDrive magazine collection apply to offering an integrated ebook and eaudiobook collection as well.

CloudLibrary

CloudLibrary's NewsStand would integrate better into our existing CloudLibrary collection. During last year's trial, some resources were not available from inside the CloudLibrary app. Those had to be accessed from a separate interface. Boyer will discuss the platform with Amber Laude and identify any changes that have been made in the last year. Committee members had previously asked about the title list and back catalog. Current members also requested information on foreign language titles. Boyer will request those from Amber.

PressReader

Boyer recently met with Mark Ritchie from Baker & Taylor. PressReader was identified as a potential resource to provide digital magazine and newspaper content. PressReader would require patrons to access digital magazine and/or newspaper content in a separate app or interface, but it would be a single collection available to all patrons across the System. Boyer will request the same information on PressReader titles and coverage.

G. STATUS UPDATE ON SYSTEM RESOURCES

CloudLibrary usage continues to increase. We had our highest number of new users in January 2025. Checkouts, holds, and active users have all increased since the start of the fiscal year.

H. CALENDAR ITEMS

The next meeting will be on April 17, 2025, on Microsoft Teams.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.